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ent houses in London this Spring, eight hundred and eighty score rye-plait, and we have about one thousand score to forward.



As connected with the subject of plait, it may be mentioned, that the Society have received from J. White, Esq. of Westbourne Green, some interesting samples of mats of stained grass, platted very ingeniously in various patterns, made at Mombass, on the Coast of Africa.

They have also received specimens of bark cloth from the Sandwich Islands, presented by Joseph Hume, Esq. M. P. V. P., and by Thomas Winkworth, Esq. Chairman of the Committee of Manufactures.

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#### IV.—OPENING HORN.

*The SILVER VULCAN MEDAL AND FIVE GUINEAS were this Session presented to Mr. J. JAMES, James Street, Lambeth, for his MACHINE FOR OPENING HORN; a Model of which has been placed in the Society's Repository.*

HORN is prepared for the use of the Lanthorn-maker, the Comb-maker, the Cutler, &c. by making it into flat laminæ of various thicknesses, according to the use for which it is intended. The horns are first cut transversely into pieces, according to the use to which each is applicable. The pieces are then slit longitudinally, and are held separately over a naked fire, till heated to the degree

at which horn becomes soft; they are then hammered flat by a mallet, and placed in a strong press till they become cold.

Mr. James, who is himself a worker in horn, objects to softening it over a naked fire, in consequence of its frequently being scorched or frizzled, more especially as in opening the old hard horns, it is necessary to allow the flame to enter the hollow, that the inside may be rendered equally soft as the outside.

The apparatus employed by Mr. James is a block of cast iron, with a conical hole quite through it, and a plug of the same metal, about one eighth of an inch less in diameter than the hole. The block and plug are both to be heated in a common fire, or in a stove, to about the temperature of melting lead; the block is then taken out, and placed on a firm support; a piece of horn previously slit is put into the hole, and the heated plug is dropped within the horn. This latter being heated, both from within and from without, soon becomes soft; the plug is then carefully and gradually driven in by a mallet, and by its pressure soon redresses any original crookedness of the horn. After being left for about a minute in this state, the plug is to be driven out by turning the block on one side, and the horn being then withdrawn will be found quite soft enough to be opened and pressed in the usual manner. Considerable saving of time is thus obtained, and all risk of overheating the horn is avoided.